

**TOWN OF DAVIE
SPECIAL MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Truex and Vice-Mayor Crowley, Councilmembers Paul, Starkey, and Caletka. Also present were Town Administrator Gary Shimun, Town Attorney Kiar, and Town Clerk Muniz.

Representative Martin Kiar provided community budget request forms and asked that these be completed and returned as soon as possible, as the deadline for submission was January 12, 2007. He suggested that other Town representatives and Senators be contacted to sponsor their requests.

Representative Kiar confirmed that there would be a special session in January regarding the insurance rates and he felt there would be a bipartisan effort to resolve this problem. He noted that Governor-elect Crist felt this issue was very important as well.

Councilmember Starkey thought Homestead Exemption portability was another important issue at the State level. She was also interested in police academy time credit. Representative Kiar stated that he had spoken with Broward County Property Appraiser Lori Parrish regarding Homestead Exemption portability, and advised that Representative Carl Domino from Juno Beach had filed a portability bill. Representative Kiar supported Councilmember Starkey regarding the police academy time credit. Councilmember Starkey was concerned about the portability issue because of its financial impact on municipalities. She felt they should follow the League of Cities initiatives and keep themselves informed on the issue.

Vice-Mayor Crowley asked to meet with Representative Kiar to discuss some issues. Councilmember Caletka said he would call Representative Kiar to discuss some issues in which he was interested.

David Sigerson said he had not been able to meet with Senators last week and the House had confined itself to discussing the property and casualty issue in preparation for the special session on January 16th. He had spoken with members of the League of Cities and developed an outline of issues which he distributed to Council.

Mr. Sigerson said the first two items were "general philosophical positions:" the Town supported Home Rule for municipalities, and the Town was opposed to unfounded mandates.

Regarding the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), Mr. Sigerson said there was a piece of legislation last year and he had not anticipated any new legislation this year; however, he now felt this might change, due to the influx of new members. Regarding increasing State record keeping and reporting requirements, Mr. Sigerson said they would take the position that the Town did not need to do any more reporting. Because most CRA offices did not have large staffs, Mr. Sigerson felt that any additional reporting or record keeping would be burdensome.

Mr. Sigerson said the "California Concept," which required that a specified percentage of TIF should go toward affordable or workforce housing, would probably be coming along. He advised that Council might want to discuss this issue and decide on a position. Councilmember Starkey felt this might be something municipalities could work on individually, as this might be an unfunded mandate or Home Rule issue. She did not believe Council could support a "one size fits all" solution.

Regarding the annexation of Broadview Park, Mr. Sigerson felt it would probably not appear this year as it had missed the deadline. He and County staff had encouraged "them" to wait until negotiations between the Town and County were completed before going forward with legislation and he thought this was happening. Mr. Sigerson said he had heard that "some County people and some city people" wanted to look at annexation as an issue and he felt this needed to be watched carefully.

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Mayor Truex thought he was alone in opposing the Broadview Park annexation. Councilmember Caletka said he was waiting for the County to come up with a deal. Vice-Mayor Crowley felt the longer the Town held off, the better off it would be. Councilmember Paul felt that the Broadview Park annexation should occur at some point. She thought the numbers they received from staff were not solid and should be investigated. Councilmember Paul added that the County also thought the numbers were inflated. Councilmember Starkey agreed with Vice-Mayor Crowley and thought the Town should take its time. She hoped nothing would happen in the legislature that might impede future discussions with the County. Mr. Sigerson said a few counties were “pushing the envelope” and including annexation powers in their own charters.

Regarding mobile home park redevelopment, Mr. Sigerson advised that there was bill that would make municipal governments responsible for relocation costs when they granted rezoning to developers. Mr. Sigerson noted that mobile home parks were the last large developable land in Broward County and developers were paying whatever they must to obtain them, then demanding rezonings to allow them to build high-density, high-profit housing. The bill requiring relocation compensation was based on the theory that the municipality would recover the costs from the increased property taxes. Councilmember Starkey felt the Town should not have this burden and asked if they could develop their own ordinance requiring a developer in this circumstance to be responsible for the relocation costs. They could also set the compensation amounts. Mr. Sigerson noted that in Broward County, it would be very difficult to find an appropriate relocation site for a mobile home, making it particularly onerous for municipalities. He said the State had tried to preserve mobile home ownership somewhat because it was affordable housing, but at the same time, other State policies disfavored mobile homes.

Councilmember Caletka was aware that the Florida mobile home group intended to file a bill adding specificity to the exit plan. He also wanted some form of financial penalties included for not complying with the terms of the exit plan.

Mr. Shimun was concerned that this amounted to subsidizing developers with local tax dollars. Mayor Truex said a loophole might be that some developers would claim a right to rezoning and the Town could be faced with a developer’s lawsuit or the relocation fee. Mr. Sigerson said they had argued that point.

Mr. Sigerson stated that the ad valorem property tax was a big issue and was affecting not only residences, but also small businesses and apartment buildings. Mr. Sigerson recognized that elected officials sought to keep taxes low, but agreed that they must also maintain sufficient revenue streams. Councilmember Starkey felt the problem was that the recent re-assessment came when property values were at their highest, and thought perhaps Council should re-assess next year as values had decreased a bit. She thought they might consider averaging as well and indicated that someone at the State level had indicated that Broward’s assessment formula might not be accurate. Mr. Sigerson said methodology was one of the issues being considered, particularly for commercial properties, as appraisers used different methods in different counties.

David Ericks explained that Ms. Parrish was assessing based on the value of the property, not highest, best use. Mr. Ericks advised that Palm Beach County had introduced a bill to settle the commercial assessment methodology issue. He agreed that the Save Our Homes program was a problem and would require a lot of discussion. Governor Bush had already appointed a property tax committee to come up with ideas to submit to the legislature. Mr. Ericks said agricultural taxes would affect Davie as well.

Mayor Truex asked Mr. Sigerson if the proposed federal disaster insurance would provide relief to homeowners. Mr. Ericks said this was being discussed, but added that nothing would happen quickly.

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Councilmember Caletka reminded Mr. Sigerson and Mr. Ericks that they were also responsible for bringing “home” appropriations, and in particular, wastewater and water. He asked that they lobby for community center and disaster preparedness appropriations and not just formula dollars. Mr. Ericks said they had no luck with water issues appropriations, as Governor Bush had vetoed them. They would determine if Governor-elect Crist would do the same.

Councilmember Caletka wanted a dollar-amount commitment from Mr. Sigerson and Mr. Ericks. Mr. Ericks said they did not yet know who the committee chairs were, but agreed to provide a wish list. He also agreed to lobby the committees when they were formed. Councilmember Starkey said Colleen Ryan, the Town’s grant writer, had a list of grants she could provide for the upcoming year.

Councilmember Paul hoped that now that the Town had a local legislator, perhaps he would sponsor a bill for the water surcharge issue. She still wanted the sound walls on I-75 and thought this issue might require a different approach. Councilmember Paul asked if the portable sewerage item from their last agenda could go into the capital budget.

Mr. Sigerson recommended that Council establish their priorities and he would return with a list of projects he felt had a good chance of not being vetoed.

Vice-Mayor Crowley remembered submitting an appropriation request last year for canal guardrails and asked if this would be resubmitted. Mr. Sigerson said these had not qualified because they were not located on State roads. He recommended these be included in the local budget process. Candice Ericks said they could investigate whether County funds were available to install the guardrails on County roads.

Mr. Shimun wondered if there was a way to get an assessment on university students’ credit hours to be used for public safety. Councilmember Starkey said there were prior funding programs with the universities. The Town had also provided training for the campus police.

Councilmember Starkey asked about the possibility of getting a grant for the “Greening Foot Print” discussed at the Open Space Advisory Committee. Councilmember Paul advised that the foot print would cost approximately \$35,000 and there should be some grant opportunities.

There being no further business to discuss and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Approved _____

Mayor/Councilmember

Town Clerk